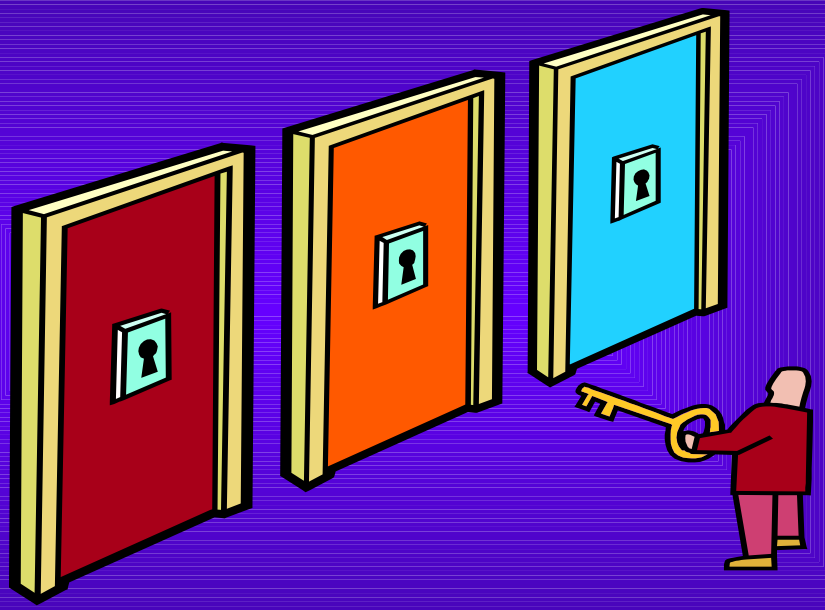
“Opening The Doors To Educational Success”



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Why The Need To Collaborate

1. **To build partnerships** – A true comprehensive strategic implementation & development plan must involve participation from all segments of the community

2. **To share "best practices"** – Why reinvent the wheel? Look at "what works".

3. **To link family, school and community** – Whether the community is a small town or a military base, "key stake-holders" must have an opportunity to participate and provide input.

1. Building Partnerships

The axiom ***"Two heads are better than one?"*** rings true when trying to strengthen children and families in a holistic way. Groups or individuals that make up a community can accomplish more when they think, plan and work together than they could accomplish working alone. Diverse stakeholders shape their holistic efforts through these collaborative partnerships. Partnerships give communities a structure for organizing, planning and implementing their ideas.

Steps To Building a Collaborative Partnership

- Recognize opportunities for change
- Mobilize people and resources to create changes
- Develop a vision of long-term change
- Seek support and involvement from diverse and non-traditional partners
- Choose an effective group structure
- Build trust among collaborators
- Develop learning opportunities for partners

How Do Partnerships Evolve?

Comprehensive partnerships begin when individuals reach out to like

minded people and groups to address issues that affect children and

families. There are many catalysts for the creation of comprehensive

partnerships.

- Sometimes educators initiate collaboration
- Sometimes families initiate collaboration
- Sometimes a community initiates collaboration

Once the spark is ignited the core group evolves by

- understanding the context of collaboration
- expanding to include partners and community
- forming the partnership and

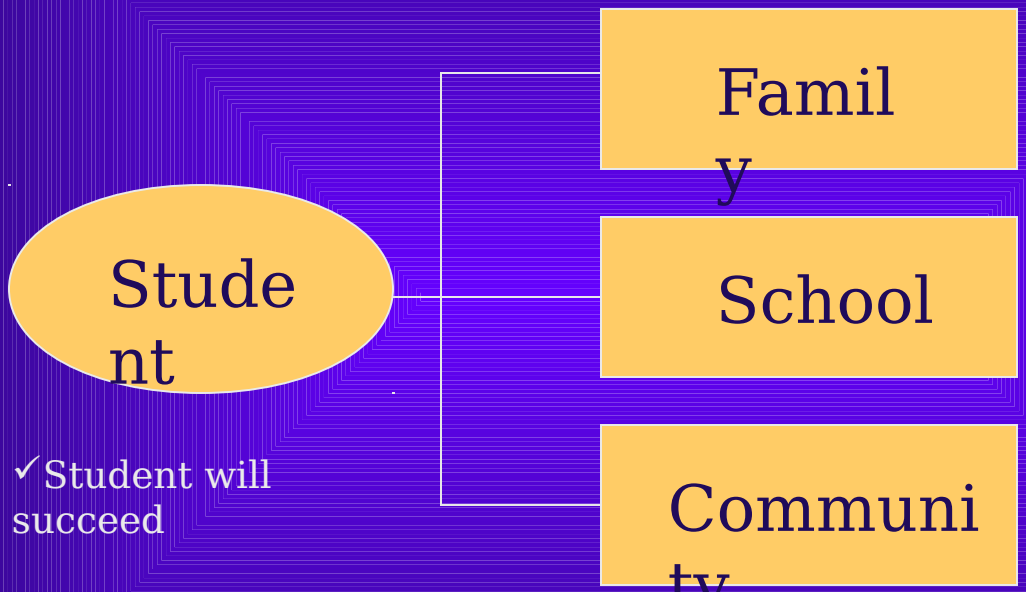
2. Sharing Best Practices/Resources

Work together! Consult individuals or groups that are active in the community. Let them buy in and feel ownership by determining their own needs, choosing the educational issues that affect them, and recognizing their capacity to help.

Four (4) Key Steps:

- Assess needs
- Survey family, school, community resources
- Share Information
- Seek out experienced collaborators

3. Linking Family, School & Community



✓Student will succeed

✓Parent(s) empowered & become aware of the school and community's role and support

✓Educators become aware of family and community resources to enrich curriculum and instruction

✓Community can identify and integrate resources and services to strengthen school & family programs

"A Win, Win Situation"

What Makes a Successful Program

- Roots in the Community
- Building Trust
- Willingness to Evolve

A Call To Action

We can agree that ***"it takes a village to raise a child".*** In order to be successful, your village (community) must begin to collaborate. Comprehensive strategies must be developed to address traditional and non-traditional emerging family needs and priorities.

Together, we CAN make a difference! Will you answer the call to action?